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6. Dr. (Mrs.) Santha V. Pillai
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7. Dr. (Ms.) B. Vimala
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8. Shri. M. Unnikrishnan
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9. Dr. (Mrs.) M.T. Sreekumari
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46. Deputy Director
47. Joint Director
48. Assistant Director

**BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP (10 -11 Jan 2006)
AT CENTRAL TUBER CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
SREEKARIYAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

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 15. Dr. S. Anantharaman, Head, Section of Social Sciences
 16. Dr. M.S. Palaniswami, Project Co-ordinator, (AICRP on Tuber Crops)

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25. Dr. A.K.K.Unni, Research Co-ordinator.

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28. Shri. L. Radhakrishnan, IAS, Secretary (Forest & Wild life), Govt. of Kerala,
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Asst. Director

Organizing Committee

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Dr. K. Abraham	-	Convener
Dr. C.S. Ravindran	-	Member
Dr. M. Anantharaman	-	"
Dr. M.T. Sreekumari	-	"
Dr. G. Suja	-	"
Dr. M.L. Jeeva	-	"
Shri. A. Madhu	-	"

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP
PROCEEDINGS
Session I**

Dr.Prof. S. Kannaiyan chaired the first session of the National Biodiversity Awareness workshop held on 10/01/2006, 12.00-4.15 pm. Six papers were presented in this session, one on Biodiversity act, one on functioning of Kerala State Biodiversity board, two each on Plant and Marine biodiversity.

The first paper was presented by Prof.S.Kannaiyan in which he gave an overview of Biological Diversity Act and briefed the biological resources of India, biosurvey and bioutilization. He pointed out the implications of human interference on biodiversity. He also presented the goals of Convention on Biological Diversity. He explained the functions and powers of National Biodiversity Authority as well as that of State Biodiversity Boards. He highlighted the need for location specific documentation of genetic resources especially herbal remedies and vegetable dyes to avoid biopiracy in future.

Dr. K.R.S.Krishnan, Secretary, Kerala State Biodiversity Board explained the activities and programmes of the State Biodiversity Board that launched a series of start up phase activities. Biodiversity management committee has already been constituted in 999 village Panchayaths in Kerala. Biodiversity documentation has been started at Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki and Ernakulam Districts. He also presented the flow chart of action plan for monitoring Biological Diversity activities in Kerala.

Dr. S. Edison, during his presentation on Agro biodiversity in Western Ghats and its utilization, explained the activities of National Agriculture Technology Project on plant biodiversity with special emphasis on Zone II that cover Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar islands. He presented the plant biodiversity present in Western Ghats with special reference to tropical tuber crops. He briefed the joint activities of CTCRI and Project Tiger officials of Kalakkad Mundathurai Tiger Reserve on exploration and collection of tuber crops biodiversity in Western Ghats.

Dr. G.Mohandas Nair covered the topics Biodiversity, Bioprospecting, Indigenous knowledge and IPR issues. He presented the various aspects of ecosystem conservation, criteria for evaluation of genetic resources, the need for documentation of data, conservation and sustainable utilization of protected areas, chemical prospecting, gene prospecting etc.

Dr. Venkataraman presented the paper on " Status, threats and conservation of coastal and marine diversity in India. He gave a clear picture of India's coastal and marine biodiversity and highlighted the rich mangrove ecosystem in India . He presented the biodiversity on sea grasses. Sponges, coelentrates, molluscs, marine fishes etc, and also the threats to marine biodiversity in India.

The last presentation of this session was made by Dr.L.P.Lipton on Marine biodiversity-its conservation and utilization. He reiterated the need for conservation and utilization of marine biodiversity especially scleractinians, Gorgonids, molluscs, ornamental fishes etc.

The presentations were followed by discussion on different papers.

- The participants raised questions on legal binding of National Biodiversities Authority and was chaired by the Chairman
- The participants engaged on research clarified their doubts on publication of research findings in International Journals and also International exchange of genetic resources. The chairman informed the house that prior approval of National Biodiversity Authority is required for publishing results related to genetic resources in foreign journals. Also International exchange of any living material needs prior approval.
- The participants raised concern over the destruction of marine ecosystem especially coral bleaching, over exploitation gorgonids etc. Conservation and protection of marine resources needs strengthening to avoid exploitation of other countries especially from South Western side.
- Kerala State Biodiversity Board has a good start by setting biodiversity management committees in 999 Panchayaths and documenting genetic resources in biodiversity register at Panchayath and District level.
- The efforts on bioprospecting of genetic resources need strengthening.

In short, the session concluded by creating awareness on biodiversity in India especially on the legislative measures enacted to preserve them.